

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 INR-10 L-03 NEA-11

NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 USIA-15 TRSE-00

SAM-01 SAJ-01 NSC-10 H-03 AID-20 FDRE-00 SS-20 IGA-02

SWF-02 DRC-01 /151 W

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4137

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INFO AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, NATO, NG

SUBJ: FAMINE IN NIGER AND REQUEST FOR NATO NATIONS' HELP

1. AT THE WEEKLY LUNCHEON MEETING OF NATO AMBASSADORS, SECRETARY GENERAL LUNS SAID THE AMBASSADOR OF NIGER HAD CALLED ON HIM TO ASK ASSISTANCE IN DISTRIBUTING FOOD TO DROUGHT VICTIMS. THE AMBASSADOR SAID THE PRESIDENT OF NIGER HAD CALLED HIM AND IN POIGNANT TERMS DESCRIBED A VISIT TO THE NORTH OF THE COUNTRY WHERE CHILDREN ARE DYING BY THE HUNDREDS.

2. NIGER HAD RECEIVED 300 TONS OF POWDERED MILK FROM THE EC, WHICH MUST BE DELIVERED TO THE COUNTRY SOON, BUT NIGER LACKED THE AIRLIFT. THE AMBASSADOR KNEW NATO AS SUCH HAD NO AIRCRAFT, BUT ASKED LUNS TO TRANSMIT THE REQUEST FOR HELP THROUGH THE FIFTEEN AMBASSADORS TO THEIR GOVERNMENTS.

3. COMMENT: I AM GENERALLY AWARE OF INTERNATIONAL EFFORTS TO AID IN THE SAHELIAN DROUGHT, AND OF THE U.S. CONTRIBUTION. LUNS SAID IT WOULD BE GOOD FOR NATO NATIONS TO BE HELPFUL IN THIS SPECIFIC INSTANCE, HOWEVER, AND I TRANSMIT THE NIGER REQUEST.

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PLEASE ADVISE.RUMSFELD

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